

CULTURE AND THE ARTS — INVESTMENT AND SUPPORT

663. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the 2016 census results, which highlighted the importance of the arts sector in creating jobs and supporting our communities. How is the McGowan Labor government investing in Western Australia's cultural industries and supporting jobs in the arts sector, and is the minister aware of anyone who does not believe that these local groups and organisations deserve support?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Mount Lawley, whose electorate contains two great Western Australian performing institutions. I know that he is very proud of them, as is Western Australia of our history of delivering to the world quality individuals who have made the world their stage in the creative industries. Only recently, I launched an introspective photographic exhibition of the late Heath Ledger, who epitomised the creativity of Western Australia.

I thank the member for his question. It is really important that, as we continue to broaden the economy of Western Australia so that we do not rely on a narrow range of employment deliverers, we do not underestimate the importance of the creative industries in Western Australia. I do not know whether many members heard the member for Bunbury speak about the incubation, nurturing and encouragement of creative industries in the south west region, which has some great product, including CinefestOZ. There are people in that region who are delivering and working on animation—they are delivering to the world. We need to understand that the creative industries are integral to a broadened economy in Western Australia. It is great to see that as part of the government's commitments, a number of creative entities in Western Australia have received funding under the Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative.

Of course, the West Australian Youth Orchestra, which has its home in the member for Maylands' electorate, will receive \$300 000 for its facilities. I am sure that when WAYO enhances its facilities, it will use local business to deliver what it needs to get the place out of which it operates up to standard. It will be very happy with that contribution. I know, member for Wanneroo, there is a wonderful theatre company in the northern suburbs that received a grant from Local Projects, Local Jobs. I know that projects in other members' electorates, members from all sides of Parliament, have received those grants. It was disappointing that during the estimates process, the Leader of the Opposition—he was joined by his erstwhile young assistant, the member for Dawesville—talked about the so-called Labor slush fund. Let me remind the member for Dawesville, the Leader of the Opposition and others about some of the projects that have been delivered in their electorates. I would hope that they do not want them taken away. I hope that the member for Dawesville does not want them taken away because he knows that those delivered in his electorate will utilise local businesses to deliver those projects to those groups. I hope he does not want the grant given to Midway Community Care, which provides quality care to people with disabilities, to be taken away. I hope he does not want that one taken away—I hope you don't, I hope you don't! These projects deliver quality outcomes to many people across the state.

Point of Order

Dr M.D. NAHAN: He is not standing in his place. He is gravitating out into the aisle.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am acting for two others!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is essential. I hope that the criticism that is being levelled, including that from the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Dawesville and others, recognises that those projects are delivering quality to groups throughout the state and they are welcomed by those groups. I know that many members in this place have attended the presentations with regard to those.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is wrong with you; what are you on now?

The fact of the matter is —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 9 November 2017]

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Mr Simon Millman; Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will not listen to him over there. I will not be interrupted or distracted by him.

The fact of the matter is this: those projects are good projects. They are delivering quality and they are making sure that local businesses have an opportunity to provide services. They are much needed and appreciated by those thousands of people who will benefit from them.